

## Support Our Work!

**Join:** The S.O.S. Collective is a membership organization open to all LGBTSTGNC people of color who live in Brooklyn. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7-9pm. Please consider becoming a general or active member.

**Donate:** The S.O.S. Collective is completely volunteer led and run with the exception of one staff member. Your tax-deductible donation can help us contribute to our fund designated for recent survivors medical expenses, or go to our general operating expenses.

**Become an Ally:** We thoroughly value our non-people of color and straight allies in the fight to stop violence against LGBTSTGNC people of color. Please contact us to get more information about how to become an ally.

## About the Audre Lorde Project

The Audre Lorde Project is a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two Spirit and Transgender People of Color center for community organizing, focusing on the New York City area. Through mobilization, education and capacity-building, we work for community wellness and progressive social and economic justice. Committed to struggling across differences, we seek to responsibly reflect, represent and serve our various communities

### The Safe OUTside the System Collective

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## Safe OUTside the System Collective

*A project of the  
Audre Lorde Project*



The Safe OUTside the  
System Collective

Because everyone  
deserves to be safe!

## Guiding Principles

The Safe OUTside the System Collective works to challenge hate and police violence that affects LGBTSTGNC people of color. We are guided by the belief that strategies that increase the police presence and the criminalization of our communities ( i.e. hate violence legislation) do not create safety because they do not change behavior. Therefore we believe in building stronger relationships within our communities and with our allies to prevent, intervene, and challenge violence.

## History

The Safe OUTside the System Collective (formerly known as the Working Group on Police & State Violence) began in 1997 in response to a rash of hate violence, increasingly repressive law enforcement tactics, an increase of police violence, and the “Quality of Life” policing practices of the Giuliani administration. We changed our name to the S.O.S. Collective in 2005 in order to reflect our shifting focus on community based strategies to challenge violence outside of the criminal justice system

### Summary of Past Work

**Advocacy:** We secured legal support for JaLea Lamot a Trans Woman of color who, along with her family, was brutally attacked and then arrested by NYCHA police.

**Organizing:** After two youth were arrested while marching with us at the Heritage of Pride Parade in 2006 we organized several demonstrations, secured legal representation, and organized community support to challenge the NYPD’s excessive policing practices at Heritage of Pride.

## History cont.

**Coalition Work:** We were a founding member of the people of color led Coalition Against Police Brutality (CAPB).

Through CAPB we participated in People’s Justice 2000 – 41 days of direct action in wake of Diallo & Louima

*Racial Justice Day* – an annual event where family members speak out against police brutality and murder (through CAPB)

*Third World Within* (TWW) – citywide coalition of people of color led community-based organizations

*LGBT War on Terrorism National Meetings*  
WGPV worked with other LGBT organizations to build a national voice against the war and created the LGBT Statement Against War on Terrorism.

*Racial Justice 911* – National Coalition of POC groups against War on Terror. A coordinated day of action which included a Community Speakout, and multiple days of direct action during the Republican National Convention.

*Operation Homeland Resistance* – 3 days of civil disobedience in protest of occupation of Iraq and war at home and abroad

## Safe Neighborhood Campaign Fall 2007, Bedford Stuyvesant Brooklyn

The Safe Neighborhood Campaign seeks to empower community members to be proactive in preventing anti-lgbtst violence, intervene when violent situations arise, and build stronger relationships between LGBTST people of color, our allies and the community as a whole.

The first phase of the Safe Neighborhood Campaign is to challenge community institutions (restaurants, schools, churches, community organizations, businesses, etc) to become safe spaces. Safe Spaces would be visibly identified spaces that pledge to be free of violence and sexist, homophobic, transphobic, racist language and behavior.

The second phase of the Safe Neighborhood Campaign entails the leadership development phase during which time community members and owners/employees from the designated Safe Spaces will receive training on homophobia, transphobia, how to be an effective ally, community organizing across differences, and other basic community organizing trainings.

The third phase of the Safe Neighborhood Campaign will have empowered community members and Safe Space advocates recruiting additional community members, institutions, and public figures into the campaign. At this juncture, we will organize various community events in order to bring additional attention to the campaign and help it to grow exponentially across all areas of Brooklyn.

The Safe Neighborhood Campaign will launch in the Fall of 2007 with a Stop the